

The War in Europe—The Latest Telegraphic Tidings of the Allies.

The telegraphic accounts which profess to detail the progress of the allies in the Crimea seem likely to cover their arms with as much ridicule as the famous bulletins of the Mexican Dictator. Victories on the wires will soon be covered by as frequent political reverses as victories on paper. Their repetition, however, will have the effect of weakening the galvanic shock to our nerves by their novelty at first occasions; and when the intelligence actually arrives, which in the ordinary course of events, might have produced a sensation, we will be prepared to receive it without any great disturbance of our equanimity.

In our comments on the last advices which enounced the fall of Sebastopol, it will be recollected that we treated the news of that event with the incredulity which the unreliable character of the sources through which it was derived seemed to warrant; it now turns out that we were correct in the conclusion at which we arrived. Sebastopol has not yet fallen into the hands of the allies, and although the more recent accounts received through an official medium represent its capture as imminent, it may, for all the reliance that we can place upon these statements, be in a less perilous position than is described, and may possibly hold out until the reinforcements announced to be on their way from Odessa under Generals Liders and Ostensacken arrive to its relief. Be this as it may, the circumstantial anticipation of an event that may never occur, with its minute details of the strategic skill, heroic daring and incredibly rapid successes, to say nothing of the holocausts of Russian victims, with which the public mind here was so recently startled, may be regarded as one of the most stupendous, as it is one of the most effective, hoaxes of modern times. We fancied that Yankee ingenuity was not to be surpassed in practical jokes, but our *chefs d'œuvre* of Sir John Herschel's discoveries in the moon, and the arrival of the great Nassau balloon from England, with its cargo of savans, some ten years ago, fade into insignificance when compared with this brilliant feat of the European newsmongers. Empereurs, diplomats, ministers of State, and even those sceptical mortals, the conductors of the news paper press, all fell into the trap laid for them. Half Europe went crazy with joy, and the universal exultation found vent in public thanksgivings, municipal ovations, military salutes, and a vast expenditure of penny crackers. Even our own peaceful city was frightened from its propriety by the thunder of the French frigates, lying in our harbor. But alas! to the mortification and dismay of all those great personages—to the confusion and annoyance of those perspicacious individuals whose pens are in the pay of the coalition—to the newly revived terrors and doubts of the shopkeepers of England and the peace-loving bourgeoisie of France—and to the great glee of the *utronics*, who expect to fire their crackers over again—Sebastopol probably still maintains its reputation as being one of the most impregnable fortresses in the world.

As, however, to use a vulgar saying, there is never smoke without fire, it must be a consolation under all this disappointment and humiliation—for it is the nature of man to feel small when he finds his credulity thus cruelly played upon—to reflect that, although the allies have not taken Sebastopol, they have made some way towards it. We believe there is no doubt—(although since the invention of the electric telegraph it is not safe to attach faith to any thing)—that the battle of Alma has been fought, and that the allies have established the basis of their operations at a small port called *Sebastopol*, about nine miles in a direct line from Sebastopol, and eleven to the east of Cape Chersonese. How they got there, whether by sea or land, does not appear very clearly from Lord Stratford de Redcliffe's despatch; but it is supposed that between the 20th and the 28th they successively forced all the strongly entrenched positions of the Russians on the Katka, the Belbek and the Tchekmaik, which feeds the harbor of Sebastopol. If these statements are correct they are now masters of the whole open country between the Alma and the south coast, to the west of the position taken up by Prince Menschikoff. The Russian General has, it is said, been driven to the east of this line of operations; and his army, which before the battle of Alma was stated to consist of 50,000 men, is supposed now not to amount to more than 20,000, part of the force under his command having been detached to strengthen the garrison of Sebastopol. He has taken up a position at Bokht-Sarai, where he is awaiting reinforcements, the Russians having abandoned the fort of Anapa, the key of the Circassian coast, to march to his relief, whilst a body of 50,000 men under Generals Ostensacken and Liders is advancing with the same object from Odessa. Thus every thing promises a fierce and protracted contest in the Crimea, which even the fall of Sebastopol is not likely to bring to a proximate termination.

As soon as the ice sets in the Baltic it is said to be the intention of the Czar to withdraw as many of his troops as he can spare from the northern portion of his territories, in order to prosecute the war in the south with greater vigor than ever. It is also rumored that Austria has at last made up her mind to consider the Emperor of Russia's prolonged refusal of the four conditions of the allies as a *casus belli*. To the latter of these statements we attach no credit. The tone of the English press with regard to this power, it will be seen from our extracts in this day's paper, entirely coincides with the view which we have always taken of its policy. Austria will not countenance her own selfish interests in any other sense than she may pursue, and those interests are not to be advanced by active hostilities with Russia. She will continue to hold the Principality until the close of the war without committing herself further on either side—content with retaining a pledge which she thinks will make her influence felt in any new re-partition of territory. It remains to be seen whether the belligerent Powers will allow her to play the part of the fox in the fable.

THE LIQUOR BILL AND THE VETO—CLARE and SEYMOUR—We publish this morning, to refresh the memories of our readers, the prohibitory liquor bill of Myron H. Clark, and the veto of said bill of Governor Seymour. This will define the exact position of each upon the liquor question. The position of the whig Lieutenant, H. S. Raymond, was that of the veto until his recent conversion in favor of the bill. How he will stand after the election will, perhaps, depend upon the result, and that, we suppose, is left to the party of Ullman and Scraggs.

The Liquor Question in Pennsylvania.

The returns from the German counties by Pennsylvania on the question of a proposed prohibitory liquor law, which was submitted to the people at the recent election, exhibited a large majority against the measure, that it was supposed the popular decision was unfavorable to an act like the Maine law. But further returns from the Northern and Western counties, where the population is not of German origin, have quite turned the tables. The official majorities show an aggregate balance against the law of about three thousand votes. But in an aggregate vote of nearly four hundred thousand, a majority either way, of three thousand votes, amounts to no decision at all, and the people of Pennsylvania may be said to be nearly equally divided on the question of a prohibitory liquor law. Under such circumstances it may be doubted whether the Legislature recently elected, will feel disposed to carry out the views of the ultra temperance men, but may feel constrained to pass laws restricting licenses, and otherwise to adopt judicious measures for the suppression of the vice of intemperance.

The details of the votes on this liquor question, from the various counties into which the great State of Pennsylvania is divided, show curious results, which will interest those who know the peculiar circumstances of the rest population of the various sections of the State. To those readers not well informed on this subject, we may remark that Pennsylvania was mainly settled by four classes of people, representing different European races. The English settlers, principally Quakers, under William Penn, occupied Philadelphia, Delaware, Chester, and part of Bucks county, on the Delaware, and this section has given a large aggregate majority in favor of the prohibitory liquor law; the counties settled by the Germans, and now occupied mainly by their descendants, such as Berks, Lancaster, Dauphin, Lehigh, Northampton, Schuylkill, Montgomery, Adams, Franklin, &c., have, in nearly every instance, given heavy majorities against the proposed law. Then come the counties on the northern line of the State—viz., Erie, Warren, Bradford, Susquehanna, Tioga, &c., and including Luzerne and other counties in the valley of Wyoming, all of which were principally settled by emigrants from New England, and generally democratic in their politics. This section gives heavy majorities in favor of the prohibition of the sale of liquor. The region west of the Alleghany Mountains, which was principally settled by people of Anglo-Saxon origin, particularly from Scotland, the North of Ireland and Wales, has also given a heavy vote in favor of prohibition of liquor sales. We see, therefore, that the only class of counties which has decided against a prohibitory law is that in which the people of German descent have the preponderance, and a few counties where the emigrants from Ireland and Germany, employed in the mines and in internal improvements, have turned the scale.

MORE BANK DEFECTIONS.—The discovery of a deficiency of \$75,000 in the accounts of the teller of the Ocean Bank has again thrown the community into a lively state of excitement. In the fact itself there is nothing strange or unusual. Defalcations are matters of every day occurrence in every commercial community, and we do not know that anything is gained by exacting heavy security from those who have it in their power to commit them; for whenever a cashier or teller undertakes to rob his employers, he always does it to an extent far beyond his security. The best security is a vigilant and energetic and persevering surveillance in those under their control; to discharge young men who spend their whole salary in dress or horse, and to shut their doors remorselessly against operators in Erie or Cumberland. If young men were "let out of temptation" instead of being thrust into it by their employers, fewer defalcations or breaches of trust would take place.

A RUSE ON THE PART OF COAL DEALERS.—The late announcement that the coal mines of Pennsylvania were about to be closed, because six dollars per ton on the wharves at Philadelphia does not pay a profit, looks very much like a trick on the part of coal dealers generally, to frighten the public into the belief that the price of coal will speedily advance, and therefore that it will be economy to lay in a full winter supply. The operators in Pennsylvania want money, and must have it, and the dealers in New York, New Jersey and the Eastern States have heavy payments to make on the first of November, all of which cannot be accomplished unless the public will purchase their winter stock. The trick is transparent.

ALLEGED MUNICIPAL CORRUPTION.—The case of Barr against Erben, which is now pending before Judge Daly, is likely to bring to light a world of interesting matter. Mr. Barr sues Mr. Erben for having accused him of corruption, and from the evidence adduced yesterday, it does seem as though nothing short of an action for libel could satisfy Mr. Barr's conscience or his reputation. Of course Mr. Erben will be bound to justify what he said; and in the doing hereof, disclosures are likely to appear which will startle the city. We have no idea on which side the right lies; for aught we know Mr. Barr may have